HISTORICAL

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OF

ILLINOIS

EDITED BY

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AND HISTORY OF

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

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are active members of the Presbyterian church of Streator, and fraternally is associated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Shaw is identified with the Order of the Royal Neighbors.

SHIELDS, Robert L., for forty years an enterprising and prosperous farmer of Livingston County, Ill., now living in leisure and retirement in Pontiac, a man of abundant means and strong character, and a gallant soldier in the Civil War, was born in Kentucky, September 27, 1840. His father, William Shields, was a Scotchman by birth, and his mother, Isabel (Johnson) Shields, was a native of Ireland. In Scotland, William Shields was a mason, having learned that trade when a boy, but in Illinois he followed farming. His marriage with Isabel Johnson took place in Ireland, and about the year 1838 he came to the United States, sojourning for a while in Pittsburg, Baltimore, at different places near Cincinnati and in Kentucky. Finally, in 1849, he located in McLean County, Ill., settling in Old Town Township, where he and his wife spent their last years, the father dying in 1903, and the mother in 1905. Both were members of the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of nine children, three of whom are living. Politically, William Shields was a strong Republican. He took a prominent part in the local contests of his party, and held a number of township offices in succession.

In boyhood, Robert Shields utilized the advantages of the district schools to the extent of receiving a good common-school education and grew to maturity on the paternal farm. In 1861 he enlisted in Company K., Third Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, Capt. Nichols commanding, in which he served three years, participating in all the notable engagements in which his regiment took part, including the Siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Pea Ridge, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Stone River, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga.

After being mustered out and honorably discharged in 1864, he returned home but in December of the same year enlisted in Company One Hundred and Fiftieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry under command of Capt. Lawrence of Bloomington, in which he served one year, being finally mustered out at Atlanta, Ga., January 16, 1866. In 1867 he located in Livingston County, Ill., buying a farm of 160 acres in Saunemin Township. To his first purchase he added at intervals, until he is now the owner of 400 acres of land. For many years he was a successful breeder of Percheron horses, and later, of English Shires and Shorthorn cattle, also raising a good grade of hogs. In 1892 he moved to Kankakee, Ill., in order to secure advantages for the education of his children, and, after remaining there three years, returned to his farm. In 1904, he relinquished active business pursuits, establishing his residence in Pontiac, where he bought a home at No. 622 North Main Street. He has an interest in a farm of 320 acrs in McLean County, Ill., which was the old homestead of his father and is still undivided. He also owns twenty acres in Dawson Township.

On November 14, 1873, Mr. Shields was married to Eliza Bennett Lilly, who was born April 25, 1845, in Madison County, Ohio, a daughter of John and Mary (Smith) Lilly, natives of that State. They came to Illinois in 1856, locating in Rook's Creek Township, Livingston County, where the father followed farming. Both are deceased. Their family consisted of twelve children, seven of whom are living. John Lilly was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was quite prominent in church work. Politically, he was identified with the Republican party. Mr. and Mrs. Shields became the parents of five children, as follows: Truman William, Clarence S., Lilly Belle, Chester Weldon and James H. The eldest son, Truman W., is a graduate of the law school of the University of Michigan, and is now engaged in the practice of law in Kankakee, Ill.; he married Agnes Valeria Froehlke. Clarence S., who received his education in the Kankakee High School, and is now a barber of Lincoln, Ill., married Viola Boggs. Lilly B. was educated in the Kankakee and Pontiac High schools, and Chester W., who pursued a course of study in the Bloomington Business College, is at present in the employ of the International Harvester Company. James H. is engaged in the grocery business in Pontiac. The amiable and faithful mother of this interesting family departed this life, deeply lamented, June 4, 1903. She was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is her husband. Politically, Mr. Shields is a Republican, and fraternally, he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

SHOOK, James K., contractor and builder, Fairbury, Livingston County, Ill. Maryland has contributed to Central Ilinois many men who, through ability and endeavor, have taken their places among its leading citizens. A score of family names could be mentioned in this connection, but the name at the head of this article will sufficiently illustrate the thought. James K. Shook was born at Utica Mills, Frederick County, Md., September 6, 1860, a son of John William and Mary E. (Morningstar) Shook. John William Shook was a son of Jacob Shook, who was of German ancestry, the former and his wife both being natives of Maryland, where he died in 1901, aged fifty-eight years, and his wife in 1864, when their son, James K., was about four years old. Mr. Shook was a farmer and in politics a Democrat. In all things pertaining to the prosperity of the general public he was notably public spirited. He and his wife were ardent members of the Reformed church, and he was the Superintendent of the Sunday school. They had three children, two sons and a daughter, of whom the latter died in infancy. Their son John died at Liberty, Md., in February, 1908, aged fifty-two years, four months and eight days, after a very short illness. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Shook married Elizabeth